

Message

From: Adeeb, Shanta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DD827C964D6042EB87B3D98B2539BFB9-ADEEB, SHAN]
Sent: 12/11/2020 12:24:51 PM
To: Lara, Rhina [Lara.Rhina@epa.gov]; Rate, Debra [Rate.Debra@epa.gov]
CC: Johnson, Marion [Johnson.Marion@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Thanks Rhina.

From: Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Rate, Debra <Rate.Debra@epa.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Marion <Johnson.Marion@epa.gov>; Adeeb, Shanta <Adeeb.Shanta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Just sharing the comment that was approved by Alex:

EPA received a pesticide registration application from AgLogic to use the insecticide Aldicarb on oranges and grapefruit trees in Florida to help protect citrus crops. EPA is evaluating the application and expects to make a decision in January, which must be followed by an evaluation by the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Best,
Rhina M. Lara (*she/her/hers*)
Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Lara, Rhina
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Rate, Debra <Rate.Debra@epa.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Marion <Johnson.Marion@epa.gov>; Adeeb, Shanta <Adeeb.Shanta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas
Importance: High

Looping in Marion and Shanta!

I searched our database and couldn't find a previous comment on aldicarb.

From: Lara, Rhina
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Rate, Debra <Rate.Debra@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas
Importance: High

Hi Debra,

We just had the press inquiry below come in. I know Dian is working with you on the aldicarb comms, but could you help with providing a statement regarding the article below on using aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas?

Best,

Rhina M. Lara (*she/her/hers*)

Communications Branch

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: (202) 815- 5722

From: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:46 PM

To: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; OPS CSID CB <OPS_CSID_CB@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Deadline: ASAP

From: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:39 PM

To: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; OPS CSID CB <OPS_CSID_CB@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Ken – can we get a deadline?

Rhina – this probably belongs in RD. Can you handle? Dian is out this afternoon and possibly tomorrow too.

Greg Siedschlag

Chief, Communications Branch

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: (703) 603-9044

Cell: (571) 319-7949

pronouns: he/him/his

From: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:36 PM

To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; OPS CSID CB <OPS_CSID_CB@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Hi all, Please see inquiry below

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:30 PM

To: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Hi Ken,

I think this one came through when you were closing out clips.

Just wanted to flag this one for you.

Thanks,

Angela

From: Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:12 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Cc: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>

Subject: WUSF Interview or Comment - application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas

Inquiry below.

From: Meszaros, Jessica <jmmeszaros@wusf.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>

Subject: WUSF Interview or Comment?

Hi Brandi,

I'm a reporter and host for WUSF, the NPR station for the Tampa Bay area.

The Center for Biological Diversity sent out a press release, which I have forwarded below, showing their opposition to the application for AgLogic to use the pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas.

I will be interviewing the Center and wanted to make sure I got a comment from the EPA – whether that's an interview or an emailed comment.

You can reach me at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

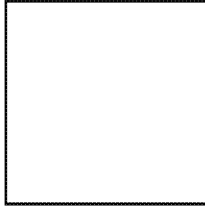
Thank you!

From: Nathan Donley <ndonley@biologicaldiversity.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:44 AM

To: Meszaros, Jessica <jmmeszaros@wusf.org>

Subject: EPA to Consider Reapproving Previously Banned Use of Extremely Toxic Pesticide Aldicarb on Citrus Trees in Florida, Texas



For Immediate Release, December 10, 2020

Contact: Nathan Donley, Center for Biological Diversity, (971) 717-6406,

ndonley@biologicaldiversity.org

Karen McCormack, former staffer in EPA pesticide office, klmccormack55@gmail.com

EPA to Consider Reapproving Previously Banned Use of Extremely Toxic Pesticide Aldicarb on Citrus Trees in Florida, Texas

Dangerous Neurotoxin Linked to Brain Damage Is Banned in Over 100 Countries

WASHINGTON— In what will likely be the first major pesticide decision under the Biden Environmental Protection Agency, the agency will consider allowing use of the dangerous, previously cancelled pesticide aldicarb on citrus trees in Florida and Texas.

If approved the manufacturer's application would allow use of the highly toxic pesticide linked to brain damage in young children and infants on up to 400,000 acres of orange, grapefruit, lemon and lime trees in the two states.

The proposal by AgLogic, the sole manufacturer of aldicarb, to dramatically escalate use of the pesticide that is banned in more than 100 countries across the globe comes a decade after an agreement was in place to cancel its use entirely in the United States.

“The fact that U.S. regulators would even consider expanding use of this dangerous, widely banned pesticide is a stunning indictment of our broken regulatory system,” said Nathan Donley, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity. “This application vividly reaffirms why the pesticide industry considers us the dumping ground for the world’s worst pollutants. We’ll be watching closely to see whether the Biden administration steps up and puts public health before pesticide company profits.”

Aldicarb is classified as “extremely hazardous” by the World Health Organization — its highest toxicity category — and one of only 35 pesticides subject to regulation under the Rotterdam Convention, an international treaty designed to reduce trade of the most hazardous chemicals in the world. The United States is one of only a few countries around the world that has not ratified the treaty.

In 2010 the EPA and Bayer reached an agreement to end the use of aldicarb in the United States after the EPA found that its ongoing use posed unacceptable dietary risks to infants and young children. The crop use that resulted in the highest risk to infants and children was citrus, which Bayer agreed to cancel immediately. While the other uses of aldicarb were being phased out, AgLogic applied for, and received, approval for use on a small subset of other crops. If approved on citrus, aldicarb use would dramatically increase.

“It’s deeply disappointing to watch the current EPA renege on its agreement to ban this highly toxic and persistent pesticide,” said Karen McCormack, a retired employee of the EPA’s pesticide office. “After receiving numerous complaints of aldicarb leaching into ground water and contaminating

drinking water supplies in Florida and elsewhere, my colleagues worked tirelessly to reach a voluntary agreement with the aldicarb manufacturer to stop producing this hazardous pesticide. Now it appears all this work may have been in vain.”

AgLogic tried to gain a “Special Local Needs” approval (also called a FIFRA Section 24(c) approval) for use of aldicarb on Florida citrus in 2017 and 2018. Freedom of Information Act documents obtained by the Center show the Florida Department of Agriculture and the EPA’s pesticide office — often aligned with pesticide-industry interests — ultimately indicated they would deny the 24(c) approval, prompting the company to withdraw its application.

Among the reasons for denial of the 24(c) approval by the Florida Department of Agriculture was that AgLogic failed to demonstrate that use of aldicarb was any better at controlling pests than other, safer alternatives.

Undeterred, AgLogic is currently seeking a FIFRA Section 3 approval, which is the typical mechanism for a pesticide approval, noting that “...for Section 3 registrations EPA does not require the submission of comparative efficacy studies.”

Amid growing evidence of a dramatic decline in insect populations, including pollinators, AgLogic has also indicated it intends to request a waiver for the typically required pollinator-toxicity studies to expedite Section 3 approval on citrus.

This application comes as representatives from the citrus industry have been lobbying the EPA to approve use of the neurotoxic pesticide on the nation’s citrus. The lobbying efforts included a meeting with the agricultural advisor to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

If you would rather not receive future communications from Center for Biological Diversity, let us know by clicking [here](#).
Center for Biological Diversity, P.O. Box 710, Tucson, AZ 85702 United States

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